Kalamazoo
Public Library

76-17813

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS
CONCERNING HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL RECORDS COLLECTED AND COMPILED BY R. E. MEADER

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1. **Who is Mr. Meader?**

Mr. Meader is a resident and tax-payer near this city and patronizes the merchants of this city and local photographers do his work. His home is at Yorkville on the banks of Lovers' Lane, the outlet to Gull Lake. His post office address is Richland, Michigan; his telephone, Richland 95-F-13. He has been both a pastor and superintendent of the Methodist Episcopal Church in this district and since 1920 has been elected and re-elected every four years by the general conference of his church a member of its board of Pensions and Relief and has been vice president and special representative of that board for some time.

2. **What are the records which he collects?**

He collects (a) photographs and records of public parks and buildings, and institutions, churches, hospitals, schools, etc.; (b) photographs and biographies of people, living and departed. Some of them are considered prominent and some consider themselves humble.

3. **Why are the humble included?**

It is hard to draw a line. Most prominent people think themselves humble. Some of the greatest characters in history came from humble homes, notably, Abraham Lincoln and Jesus of Nazareth. An old adage expresses the observation that there are not many generations from "shirt sleeves to shirt sleeves." Consumers are tax-payers and therefore the humble help to support the library financially and many of them appreciate the privilege of preserving their family records and perpetuating the memory of their loved ones, whether young or old, therein. To them the library becomes a place of sacred memories. Every citizen is entitled to the privilege of some knowledge of his ancestry and this is an effort to make as much of it as can be collected available through the years to come. Many people have a desire to leave behind them some record of their lives and this is an effort to satisfy that legitimate desire.

4. **What does Mr. Meader do with the records?**

When desired he writes the records from material fur-

nished by the patrons. Frequently patrons compose their own records or select some one to do it. He then has the records neatly typed on paper that will last longest and look the best and binds them in the most beautiful, full red Russia leather binders with double metal hinges and metal back and gold tracing and lettering. These volumes he places in the library for public use.

5. **What is the expense?**

(1) The expense for photographs is (a) nothing if the patron has a photo that can be trimmed to fit the binder; (b) 50 cents if the patron has a photo suitable for mounting; (c) $1.50 to $3.00 if the patron has a negative or film from which the photographer can print; (d) from $1.50 to $5.00 for a photo from a sitting or for a photo copied from another photo. The price depends upon the photographer. Some charge more than others.

(2) The expense for the binders, paper, printing, typing, telephone and a place in which to work, auto up-keep and the work of collecting and compiling is not a fixed charge but is provided for by contributions from patrons who pay the photographer and make a contribution to apply on the rest of the expense. Some patrons sponsor a project for some friend or a church or the Y. M. C. A. or Y. W. C. A.

6. **Does the library incur any expense?**

The library accepts the custody of the collection and has no other relation or responsibility in the matter.

7. **Who are co-operating as patrons?**

Many of the best known people of the city. Among them are ministers, educators, physicians, and business men. The Battle Creek collection contains the photos and articles concerning Mr. I. L. Stone, Dr. John H. Kellogg, Mr. A. O. Jones, Mr. Harry Burt, Mr. William Drever and others as well known. The Kalamazoo collection contains photos and articles concerning the court house, Bronson Park, Michigan Female Seminary, churches, the Civic Auditorium, Dr. Caroline Bartlett Crane, Dr. and Mrs. H. L. Stetson, Dr. Hoben, Dr. W. M. Puffer, Rev. F. M. Ashbrook, Rev. D. Stanley Coors, D. D., Dr. W. E. Upjohn, Dr. James T. Upjohn, Dr. C. E. Boys, Mr. Howard Cooper, Mr. W. S. Dewing, Mr. George Wigginton, and many others too numerous to mention..

HISTORICAL DIRECTORY

Collected and Compiled by

ROBERT EUGENE MEADER

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC LIBRARY

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I N D E X

Vol.

1 Abnet to Atkins

2 Babcock - Bard

3 Barnes - Bender

4 Bennink - Borden

5 Bosman - Brooks

6 Brown - Carlton

7 Casta - Clark

8 Cleland - Craig

9 Crane - Desenberg

10 DeVisser - Dougherty

11 Dowd - Edick

12 Edmonds - Fesler

13 First Church of Scientist - Foster

14 Fox - Gilkey

15 Goodsell - Harding

16 Hare - Hickok

17 Hill - Hubbard

18 Humphrey - Kennedy

19 Kent - Kreitzer

20 Kooi - Little

21 Lochey - McDowell

22 McGill - Miller

23 Mills - Newman

24 Nevins - Parsons

25 Pattison - Portage St. Baptist Church

26 Prairieville - Reynolds

27 Richland - Rottier

28 Rubert - Severn

29 Shanley - L. F. Smith

30 Morris E. Smith - Stevens

31 Stewart - Ten Busschen

32 Tyler - Upjohn

33 Valentine - Vermeulen

34 Visser - Wallace

35 Walter - Williams

36 Wilson - Zielinski

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36 Wilson - Zielinski

76-17813

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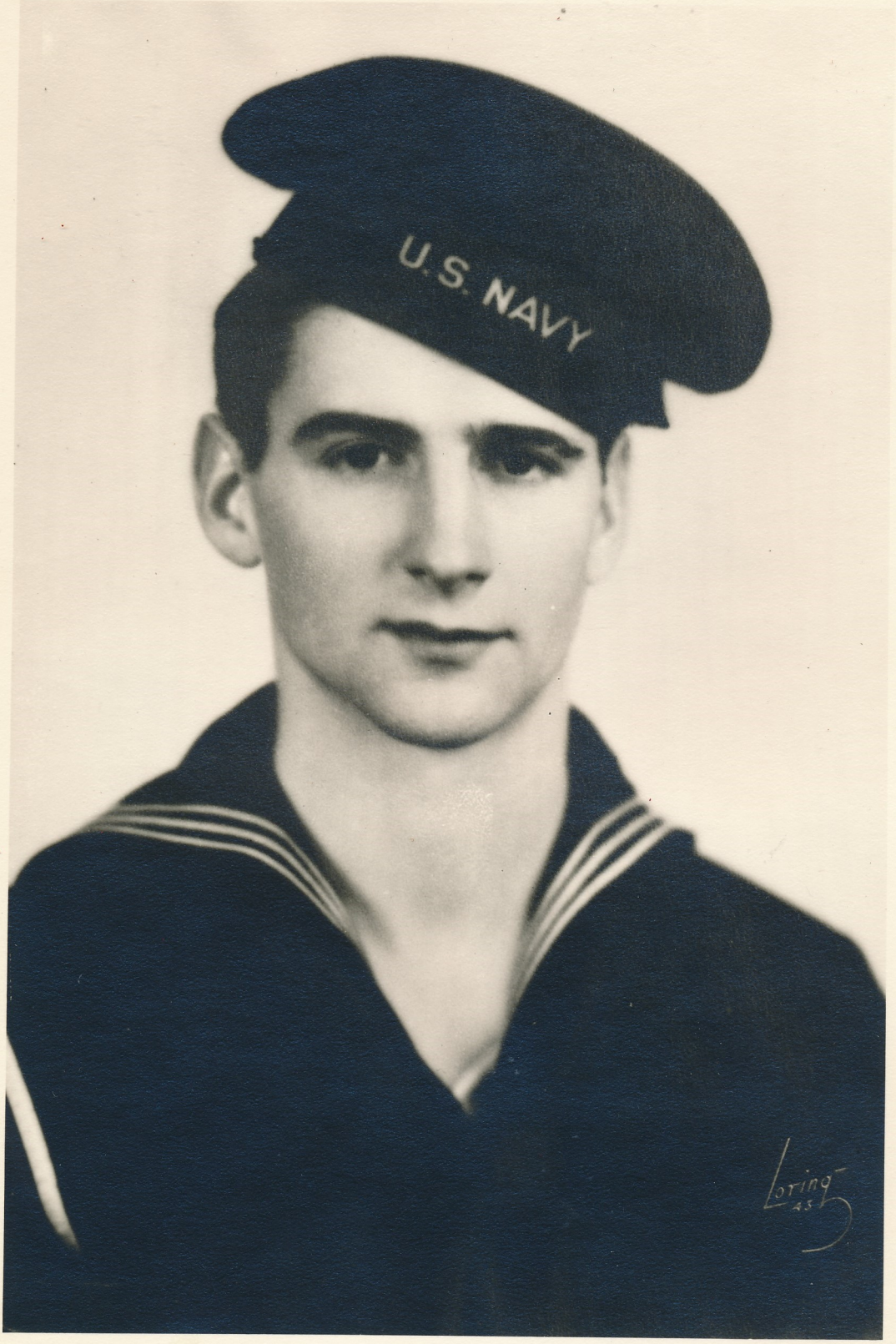
Paul Ray Abnet



6.

P A U L R A Y A B N E T

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With the throbbing of motors and squealing of sirens on the submarine Tullibee, Paul Ray Abnet, seaman first class, sailed out to sea for the last time. On March 26, 1944, the submarine attacked a convoy of Japanese ships consisting of a big troop ship, two medium sized transport ships and three escorts about one hundred miles from the island of Peleliu and was sunk by enemy action, and Paul lost his life. Every effort was made to find and rescue members of the crew and finally the navy department announced December 15, 1945, as the official date of Paul's death.

Birth and Education

Paul Ray Abnet was born in Three Rivers, Michigan, September 7, 1923, son of Frank H. and Vera Almira Hough Abnet, the former born August 8, 1882, and the latter born July 18, 1890. They were married in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in 1908, and also became the parents of:

William H., born December 29, 1909;

Charles J., born April 2, 1914;

8

Robert N., born June 2, 1915;

Rebecca M., born December 11, 1916;

John M., born March 9, 1919;

Dale E., born August 18, 1920;

Marva L., born August 23, 1928; and

Grace M., born [illegible].

Paul attended the Coleman rural school and was graduated from the Mattawan High School at the age of eighteen.

He joined the Michigan State Troops at the age of seventeen and did guard duty in Detroit, Michigan, at the time of the race riots and also at the radio station in Allegan, Michigan.

On July 20, 1942, he enlisted in the United States Navy and took his four months boot training in gunnery at the Great Lakes Training Station in Illinois. During this time he volunteered for submarine duty and was sent to a submarine training school at New London, Connecticut. From there he went to the west coast and then to the submarine base at Pearl Harbor, from which his submarine went forth to attack the enemy. Upon his first return to base he was promoted to Seaman First Class.

It was while on his second Pacific raid that he lost his life. One of his pals wrote Paul's

Robert N., born June 2, 1915;

Rebecca M., born December 11, 1916;

John N., born March 9, 1919;

Dale E., born August 18, 1920;

Marva L., born August 23, 1922; and

Grace M., born October 8, 1932.

Paul attended the Coleman rural school and was graduated from the Mattawan High School at the age of eighteen.

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10

mother that her son was ready, willing and overly anxious to get his "crack at the Japs." "This is the happiest moment of my life," he told his pal when he received his assignment to the Tullibee. He knew then that the mission was important and dangerous. The only survivor of this mission was Clifford Kuykendahl, who was blown from the conning tower.

The following is a copy of the citation which was sent to Paul's parents:

COMMANDER SUBMARINE FORCE

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET

The Commander Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet, has the honor to award the Submarine Combat Insignia and to commend in absentia

Paul Ray Abnet, 623-13-10, Slc, U. S. Naval Reserve, for services set forth in the following

CITATION:

"The U. S. S. TULLIBEE, on an offensive war patrol in confined and heavily patrolled enemy waters, failed to return as scheduled. Although there is no information as to the number of successful attacks delivered against the enemy during this patrol, this vessel has continuously distinguished herself since joining this Force by her successful and relentless attacks against the enemy and it is definitely believed that the TULLIBEE was pursuing just such bold and aggressive tactics up until the time she was declared missing.

"As Seaman First Class of the U.S.S. TULLIBEE, Paul Ray Abnet's performance of duty materially contributed to the success of this vessel against the enemy. The Commander Submarine

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12

Force, Pacific Fleet, forwards this commendation in recognition of his splendid performance of duty, which is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Naval Service."

C. A. LOCKWOOD, Jr.,

Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy

Personal Characteristics

Paul Ray Abnet was five feet eleven inches tall, slender in build, and had black hair and dark brown eyes.

In high school he was a star base ball player and pitched for his team and won the cup for his school in the Van Buren County League. He also played soft ball and foot ball and enjoyed all kinds of sport.

He liked to read and spent many pleasant hours with books and radio in his parents' comfortable home. From early youth he was interested in the navy and intended to make it his career.

Paul was a member of the Northwest Oshtemo Methodist Church to which other members of the family also belonged and attended regularly. He was especially interested in the Reverend Clarence Deal, who served the Church for a time as pastor.

Paul Ray Abnet was a fine Christian young man, the product of a devout Christian home. While in the service he met a schoolmate, Albert Allman, and

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14.

they sat one day on the beach at Hawaii and discussed the Christian life and their hope of immortality. All this love and practical religion radiated from Paul's warm, likable personality. Such boys are the life and heart of the groups of which they become a part.

All too soon his life was taken by the ravages of the disease called war, but his splendid life, earnest consecration to duty and his deep interest in his fellow men will never be forgotten.

The nation salutes you, Paul, and will be ever grateful for your service and sacrifice.

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17.

George Byron Ackley

G E O R G E B Y R O N A C K L E Y

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George Byron Ackley was born, raised and died on the farm two and one-half miles east of Indian Fields corners in Kalamazoo county, Michigan. He was born December 29, 1857 and died December 26, 1939. son of one of the first settlers in Kalamazoo county, who came about 1832, Charles Ackley and his wife, Margaret Blake Ackley of Scotch descent, and their only child.

George Byron Ackley attended the Smith school and spent nearly all his life on the farm. June 14, 1894, he was married to Susan M. Nagle, who was born April 27, 1876, in Chatham, Ontario, daughter of Henry and Ruth Arnold Nagle of English and Irish descent, her grandfather coming from Dublin, Ireland. Henry Nagle was born in Detroit, Michigan, and not long afterward the family moved to Canada where they resided until Susan was twelve years old.

Mr. and Mrs. Ackley became the parents of:

Florence Mae, born January 13, 1896, married Lewis Lynch and became the mother of Donald, Marjorie, Jerald Ackley, Ardith, Charlotte, Norman - resides in West Allis, Wisconsin;

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Mr. and Mrs. Ackley became the parents of:

Florence Mae, born January 13, 1895, married Lewis Lynch and became the mother of Donald, Marjorie, Jerald Ackley, Ardith, Charlotte, Norman - resides in West Allis, Wisconsin;

Ruth Margaret, born March 1, 1903, married Havilah S. Bender and became the mother of Betty and Havilah S. Jr., a graduate of Howe Military Academy and former student at the University of Michigan, who was killed in an auto-truck collision near Princeville, Illinois, Tuesday, Sept. 2, 1941;

George Byron, born March 25, 1908, married Alice Medendorp and became the father of Joan Mae, born March 28, 1941, resides on the Ackley farm;

Irene Evelyn, born July 12, 1910, works at the Upjohn Company and resides in Kalamazoo.

Mr. Ackley was a Democrat most of his life; served on the school board of his district; belonged to the Grange and at one time to the Knights of Pythias. When he was young he was fond of hunting and fishing.

Death came to Mr. Ackley December 26, 1939. He had been an attendant at the Baptist Church to which Mrs. Ackley belonged, but the funeral was conducted by the Reverend R. D. Wearne and burial was in Mount Ever-Rest. The foregoing was written in 1942.

Ruth Margaret, born March 1, 1903, married Havilah S. Bender and became the mother of Betty and Havilah S. Jr., a graduate of Hope Military Academy and former student at the University of Michigan, who was killed in an auto-truck collision near Princeville, Illinois, Tuesday, Sept. 2, 1941;

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23.

John J. Adams

J O H N J A D A M S

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John J. Adams was born in Texas Township, Kalamazoo County, Michigan, January 23, 1871, son of Sarah Carpenter and William S. Adams. His mother, Sarah Carpenter Adams was the daughter of Benjamin and Lucretia Carpenter and was born in Thompson, Seneca County, Ohio.

John Adams was reared in the country and attended a rural school and later graduated from Parsons Business College in Kalamazoo.

At the age of about twenty-one, Mr. Adams came to Kalamazoo and was employed with the real estate firm of Parker and Passage. Later he found employment with the Kalamazoo Stationery Company in the office and spent the remainder of his life with that firm except for two and one-half years that he was with the American Sign Company. During the last few years with the Kalamazoo Stationery Company, Mr. Adams was a cutter.

Mr. Adams was a faithful member of the First Methodist Episcopal Church for forty-three years and for fifteen years served as financial secretary. He was a regular attendant at prayer meeting and

Sunday School and would call for children and take them to Sunday School. He was very fond of children. He was always working for his church and nothing was too hard for him to do for others. He was a great reader and enjoyed flowers and gardening.

Mr. Adams had five sisters: Florence, who married Ami Chapin; Sarah Jane, who married John F. Matherson; Emma, of Kalamazoo; Adelia, who married William Worthington; and Alta, who married Glenn Hart and resides in Stratford, Texas.

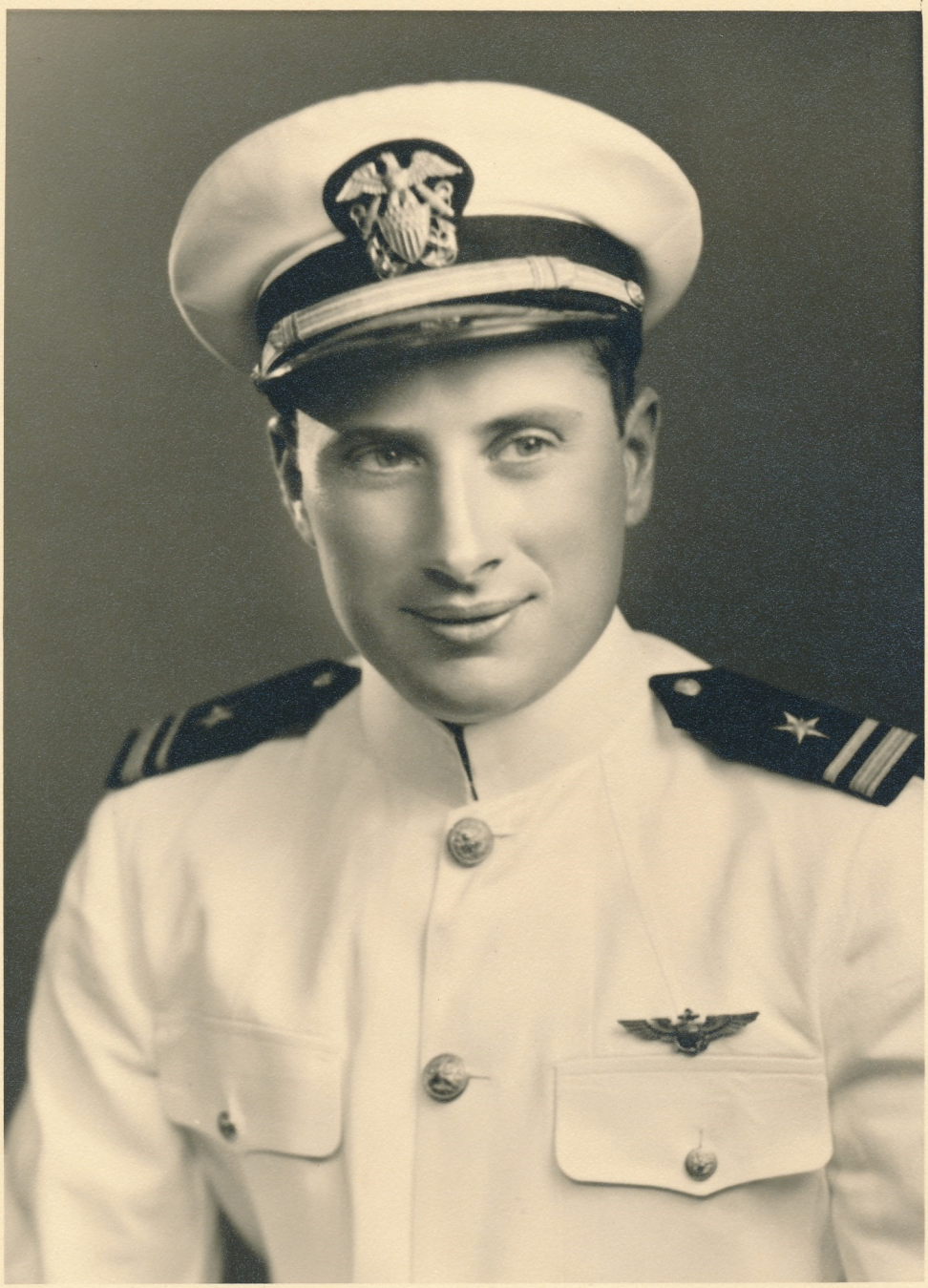
On the tenth day of September, 1902, John J. Adams married Anna M. VandePolder, daughter of Delia Besman and Jacob Vande Polder.

Death came to Mr. Adams March 20, 1936. The funeral was conducted by the Reverend William C. Perdew and burial was made in Riverside Cemetery.

(The foregoing was written in 1936)

29

George John Agar



G E O R G E J O H N A G A R

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Parents of another Kalamazoo area youth, 82nd since Pearl Harbor, were notified February 26, 1944, that their son had been killed in action in the South Pacific.

He was Lt. (J. G.) George J. Agar, 26, U. S. navy torpedo bomber pilot, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Agar, Route 8, Kalamazoo. He was serving with an aircraft carrier in the South Pacific.

No date was given in the official message from Washington as to when Lt. Agar met his death.

Lt. Agar, a graduate of State high and Western Michigan College of Education, entered the armed service of the United States January 3, 1942 and left for overseas August 5, 1943.

Before entering the service, he had taught school in Illinois and in Fraser, Michigan. At the time of his enlistment he was working for the United States Department of Labor, Wages and Hours Division, with headquarters in Detroit, Michigan.

He was home in April 1943 for two weeks leave and July 4 and 5, 1943, for the two days. The last

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word received from him was dated January 12 from somewhere in the South Pacific.

Lieutenant George J. Agar was killed January 30, 1944, while on active duty somewhere in the Pacific area.

Memorial services were held in his honor on board the carrier February 9, 1944.

"He gave his life for others."

Lt. Agar received his basic flight training in Louisiana and was commissioned an ensign in Pensacola, Florida, where he received his wings. He then received five months advanced training at Miami and Jacksonville, Florida.

Besides the parents, Lt. Agar is survived by two sisters, Mary and Iris Agar who make their home with the parents.

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35

Claire Aldrich

Mrs C. L. Aldrich

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Mrs. Claire Aldrich

M R & M R S

C L A I R E A L D R I C H

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Claire Aldrich was born in Hickory Corners, Barry county, Michigan, July 14, 1869, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Aldrich. He grew up in Hickory Corners and engaged in the hardware business with his father.

He was married to Nina Ford in the home of the bride's parents in Union City, Michigan, February 5, 1890, the Reverend J. R. Knodel officiating. She was born in Ross township, Kalamazoo county, Michigan, October 25, 1872, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Ford. In 1889 the family moved to Union City, where the wedding took place the following year. Immediately following the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Aldrich started by horse and buggy for Hickory Corners. That was the year of the big January thaw and the roads were so muddy that they got no further than Climax that night and completed the journey to Hickory Corners the next day.

Mr. and Mrs. Aldrich lived in Hickory Corners, where Mr. Aldrich continued in business with his father, until 1901, when they went to Vicksburg,

MR & MRS

CLAIRE ALDRICH

-o-

Claire Aldrich was born in Hickory Corners, Barry county, Michigan, July 14, 1887, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Aldrich. He grew up in Hickory Corners and engaged in the hardware business with his father.

He was married to Miss Ford in the home of the bride's parents in Union City, Michigan, February 5, 1890, the Reverend J. R. Knodel officiating. She was born in Rose township, Kalamazoo county, Michigan, October 25, 1872, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Ford. In 1889 the family moved to Union City, where the wedding took place the following year. Immediately following the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Aldrich started by horse and buggy for Hickory Corners. That was the year of the big January thaw and the roads were so muddy that they got no further than Gilmex that night and completed the journey to Hickory Corners the next day.

Mr. and Mrs. Aldrich lived in Hickory Corners, where Mr. Aldrich continued in business with his father, until 1901, when they went to Vicksburg.

Michigan, and he and Joseph Hudson of Augusta, Michigan, started the Vicksburg Poultry Produce Company. Later Mr. Aldrich sold his interest to Charles Hudson, who continued the business, and Mr. and Mrs. Aldrich returned to Hickory Corners.

In 1912, they went to Augusta where Mr. Aldrich bought the Wood Brothers General store. After six years they moved to Battle Creek, Michigan, where he operated the Aldrich Auto Sales Company and later was manager of the Zelinsky furniture store, retiring in 1927.

They then built the Dutch colonial home on the southeast side of Gull Lake, which they operated as a tourist "House at the End of the Road." Mr. Aldrich handles some real estate but declining health limits his activity.

Mr. and Mrs. Aldrich are among the earliest settlers at Gull lake. At one time Mr. Aldrich and his father owned nearly all the land along the east side of the lake, including that which is now occupied by Crescent and Willow beaches. They built the second cottage at the lake, now owned by Dr. Robert Fraser of Battle Creek, Michigan.

They have one son, Leo, who resides with them.

Mr. Aldrich is a member of the Hickory Corners

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They have one son, Leo, who resides with them. Mr. Aldrich is a member of the Hickory Corners

Masonic lodge and Mrs. Aldrich is a charter member of the Prudence Noble chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star and is to be a life member soon. She is also a member of the Augusta Ladies Aid Society and is on the board of trustees of the Ladies Library Association.

Mr. and Mrs. Aldrich celebrated their fiftieth or Golden Wedding anniversary on Monday, February 5, 1940, holding open house from two P. M. to ten P. M. with a family dinner. Among the guests were Mrs. James Sales and daughter, Miss Mary Louise, Miss Mary Davidson, Mr. and Mrs. Barton Cortright, Mrs. Josephine Cadwallader, Miss Rena Lasher of Kalamazoo, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Lasher of Plainwell, Mr. and Mrs. B. A. McCall and Mrs. Ada Cortright of Otsego. This was written in 1941.

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M R . & M R S .

A D A M E L I A S B E T Z I N G

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Adam Elias Betzing was born in Eagle River, in the copper country of Northern Michigan, September 1, 1870, son of John and Ann Myers Betzing, both of whom came from Germany. At that time the big boats used to dock at Eagle River.

Adam had a limited education in the rural school after which he was employed as teamster for a fuse factory. He continued in this occupation until he reached his early twenties when he moved to Calumet, Michigan, and worked on the railroad which was owned by the Calumet and Hecla Company. This railroad connected the mines with the smelting plants which were five or six miles apart, the latter being located on Torch Lake, near Houghton, Michigan. The company recognized long service by the award of a bronze medal for twenty years of service and a silver medal for thirty years of service and Mr. Betzing received both the bronze and the silver medals.

After the first World War the copper mines shut down and in 1921, Adam and his brother Henry moved to

MR. & MRS.

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After the first World War the copper mines shut down and in 1921, Adam and his brother Henry moved to

Yorkville, Michigan, and together bought the house in which both families lived until Mr. and Mrs. Adam Betzing died. Adam and Henry hoped to find employment in Battle Creek or Kalamazoo at work with which they were familiar as the electric interurban railway, which was operating at that time, afforded easy transportation to both cities. However, the employment they hoped for did not come and Adam found work in the hotel at the LaBelle resort on Gull Lake, after he had worked for a short time on the interurban railway. He worked at the hotel until he died.

Adam Betzing was not afraid of hard work. He worked on the railroad in Northern Michigan in cold winter weather starting at four or five o'clock in the morning and continuing, at times, until one o'clock the next morning. Often when he came home icicles would be hanging from his face and clothing and the buckles on his heavy coat had to be thawed out with hot water from the tea kettle before he could remove the coat.

In spite of the low wages he and his wife were frugal enough to educate their three children and pay for their home and keep free from debt.

Mr. Betzing had three brothers, a sister, a half-brother and a half-sister: John, Martin and Kate

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Mr. Betzing had three brothers, a sister, a half-brother and a half-sister: John, Martin and Kate

all deceased; Henry, who lives in Yorkville; half-brother, George Fezer, who resides in Illinois; and half-sister, Mrs. Mary Bond, who lives in Detroit, Michigan.

May 18, 1895, Adam Betzing was married to Minnie Mary Terrill in Calumet, Michigan. She was born in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, October 14, 1871. When she was a young woman the family moved to Orbisonia, Pennsylvania, and when she was in her late teens, they came to Northern Michigan.

Her brothers and sisters are: John, who lives near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Frank, who resides in Detroit, Michigan; Roy, deceased; Elizabeth, who married Henry Betzing, brother of Adam, and lived in the same house in Yorkville; and Keziah, who married John Jeffery and resides in Wisconsin.

Mr. and Mrs. Adam Betzing began housekeeping in Laurium, Michigan, where they resided for twelve or fifteen years and then moved to Calumet, Michigan, where they lived until they moved to Yorkville in 1921.

They became the parents of:

William A., who married Effie Kinnear and resides in Dearborn, Michigan;

Keziah A., who married Bryson B. Beckwith, became the mother of Mary and resides in Pleasant Ridge, Michigan;

all deceased; Henry, who lives in Yorkville; half-brother, George Fezer, who resides in Illinois; and half-sister, Mrs. Mary Sund, who lives in Detroit, Michigan.

May 18, 1895, Adam Betzing was married to Minnie Mary Terrill in Calumet, Michigan. She was born in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, October 14, 1871. When she was a young woman the family moved to Cribsonia, Pennsylvania, and when she was in her late teens, they came to Northern Michigan.

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William A., who married Zilla Kinnear and resides in Dearborn, Michigan;

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Henry F., who married Aletha Ellsworth and resides in Dearborn, Michigan.

Adam Betzing was independent in politics. He and his wife joined the Baptist Church in Laurium and helped to build its house of worship. When they moved to Yorkville, they transferred their membership to the First Baptist Church in Battle Creek, Michigan, but they attended and helped to support the Yorkville Church. Mrs. Betzing was a member of the Yorkville Ladies Aid and was a devoted Christian.

He was a quiet man, industrious, thrifty, dependable, with a high sense of honor and much patience. Mrs. Betzing was vivacious, cheerful in spite of losing much of her sight and her faith in the Heavenly Father was most beautiful and inspiring. He died June 8, 1932, and she passed away some time during the night of September 3rd and was found the morning of the 4th, 1941. Her funeral was held in the Yorkville Church, the Reverend Robert E. Meader, D. D., officiating. The burial was in the Yorkville cemetery. This was written in 1941.

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53

Mr. & Mrs. George A. Allen

Mr and Mrs George Allen

MR & MRS
GEORGE A ALLEN

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George A. Allen was born on a farm in Saratoga county, New York, May 28, 1854, son of Pardon and Sarah Ann Post Allen.

December 25, 1877, he was married to Sarah Elizabeth Gleason, who was born July 18, 1858, daughter of William and Henrietta Editha Hodgman Gleason of English descent. She was born in Comstock township, Kalamazoo county, Michigan, and attended school at Knapp's Crossing after which she was a student in Kalamazoo College for one year.

Mrs. Allen had three brothers, Albert, Frank and William Gleason, all deceased; and one sister, Alice, also deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen became the parents of:

Edith, born February 15, 1880, married
(1) Walter Jickling, deceased;
(2) James Redpath, resides in Comstock township;

Leonard, born March 2, 1882, is the father of Raymond, Richard Robert, Russell, Ralph, Ruth Mary and Ross, resides in Comstock;

Alta, born October 23, 1883, married Fred Flegal, became the mother of Elizabeth Allean, Margaret and Catherine who are twins, Howard, Robert, Manley and James, resides in Kalamazoo, Michigan;

MR & MRS

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George Manley, born September 21, 1887, resides in Grace City, North Dakota;

Gleason, born August 20, 1891, became the father of Alden, resides in Minneapolis, Minnesota;

Elizabeth, born October 29, 1894, married Harold J. Bunting, became the mother of Betty Jane, Harold Allen, Mary Lou, Keith and Caroline Kay, resides in Comstock, Michigan;

Bernice, born July 18, 1897, married Edgar Thorne of Muskegon, Michigan, resides in Comstock, Michigan.

In 1885, Mr. George A. Allen bought the old mill property in Comstock and made it into a home and lived there until he died. Mrs. Allen has continued to live there since except for one year when it was rented. In 1937, Mr. and Mrs. Thorne bought the Comstock property and Mrs. Allen has resided with them since.

Mrs. Allen's father gave the stone for the foundation and some money to build the first church structure in Comstock; it was for the Methodist Protestant communion and is now the Oddfellows' Hall. Mrs. Allen used to play the organ there when she was a young woman.

Mr. Allen was a carpenter and erected many of the buildings in the surrounding communities. He was interested in his garden and enjoyed hunting and fishing. He belonged to the Oddfellows.

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In personal appearance Mr. Allen was about five feet, ten inches tall and weighed about one hundered sixty pounds, with black eyes and black hair turning gray. He was a good neighbor and an upright citizen. He died March 9, 1932.

Mrs. Allen's mother was a member of the Methodist Protestant Church in Comstock and later transferred her membership to the Methodist Episcopal Church and her daughter was brought up in the church and for many years has been a faithful and active member of the Comstock Methodist Church and a leader in the Ladies Aid Society and the Missionary Society. She also belongs to the Rebekahs and won a medal for forty years of membership, always serving in some office.

Mrs. Allen is fond of flowers and does a great deal of knitting in spite of a broken arm. She is a very interesting conversationalist and is highly respected and much beloved among the people of Comstock. She had children in the Comstock schools for thirty years, beginning in 1886 and continuing until and including 1915. She still enjoys watching the school children going to and from school. This was written in 1941. She died at 8:15 P. M., July 23, 1942, and was buried in Comstock cemetery.

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Walter E. Allen

W A L T E R E D G A R A L L E N

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Walter Edgar Allen was born February 14, 1874, at 2219 Oakland drive, Kalamazoo, Michigan, next to the place which became his home and in which he died at 2211 Oakland drive. His father was Charles B. Allen, who for several years served Kalamazoo as chief of police; he was born March 18, 1849. Walter's mother was Sarah Ann Abbott, who was born December 27, 1843 and died February 8, 1930; her husband died March 5, 1913.

Walter E. Allen had one brother, George, who was born August 22, 1871, became the father of Charles, Kenneth and Robert, all of Kalamazoo, and died January 31, 1939.

Walter E. Allen attended school in Kalamazoo and in his final year in Central high school he went to work for the Bragg Nursery, which was located near his home.

That early preoccupation with the soil and its products in a way marked his whole life, and while other things intervened to occupy his time and energy, that early interest became sublimated into

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the more general field of real estate. The Bragg Nursery connection finally gave way to a job as clerk with the Adams Express Company.

Started Nursery Firm

Inside work and the confining routine of the office did not agree with Mr. Allen's love of the out-of-doors, and he left the express company to found his own nursery business. About this time, June 27, 1900, he married Alida McAllister in Kalamazoo, and they worked together to build up what he called the W. E. Allen Nursery Company.

This enterprise was growing satisfactorily when a salesman mulched the company of quite a large sum by padding his orders, which were sent into Indiana, extracting the excess, and selling it to his own profit. The defalcations were so large as to peril the capital structure of the young concern, so it was liquidated.

About this time Mr. Allen was invited by Harry den Bleyker to go into a partnership in the real estate business. He accepted, and started the long career he has enjoyed in that line. Some time after this partnership was formed it took on a promotion project in the East, and the two men were out of the city for some time, carrying the deal through.

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While Harry den Bleyker was returning to Kalamazoo he was killed and Mr. Allen continued the real estate business alone, never again taking a partner.

Veteran on Realty Board

He early joined the Kalamazoo Real Estate Board, and was its president for two terms. He was often appointed commissioner and appraiser of claims by the probate court, and served on the board of review for three years, 1936, 1937, 1938. For two or three years he was manager of a business service.

Mr. Allen never sought public office, preferring to concentrate his efforts on his own business. His only lodge connection was Masonic, and he was a member of the blue lodge, chapter, and commandery.

In politics he was a Republican. He was interested in base ball and he and Mrs. Allen enjoyed automobile trips to California, and to various parts of Michigan, including the northern part, and to the Big Smokies.

He had a keen sense of humor and was a delightful companion to friends who were numbered by the hundreds. His honesty and integrity led many to seek his advice and he was trusted with matters of great importance.

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years, unless he was out of the city or detained by business, he would run in next door to see his mother morning, noon and night.

In personal appearance, Mr. Allen had a fine presence, stood erect, was about five feet, eleven and one-half inches tall, weighed about one hundred sixty pounds, carried a distinguished looking plume of silver hair and had kindly blue eyes.

Death came to him November 11, 1939.

Dr. William A. Keith, pastor of the Congregational Church, conducted the funeral service and the body was cremated. While Mr. Allen was not a member of any church he was deeply interested in spiritual things and exemplified the Christian virtues in his everyday life.

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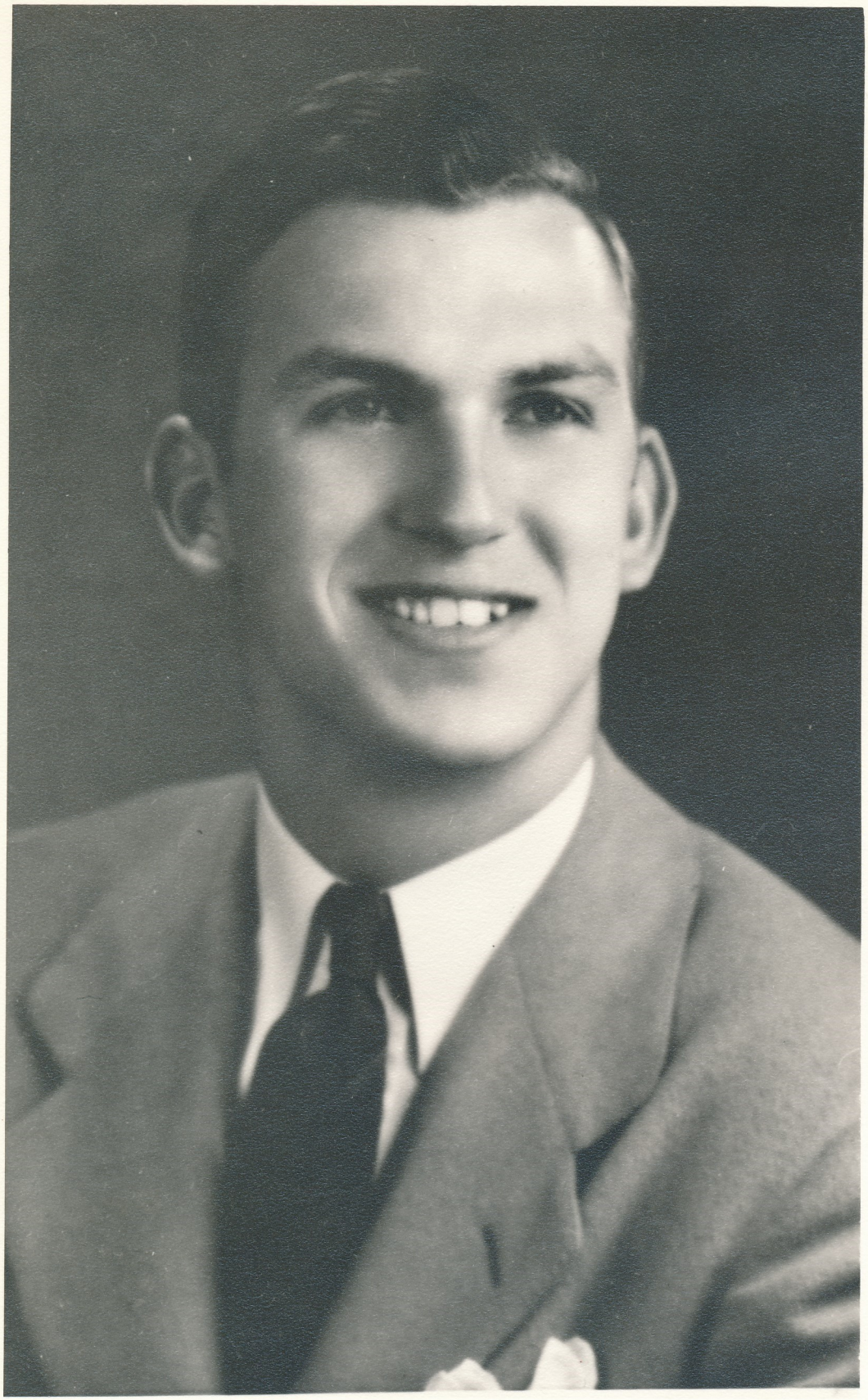
71

Roy Herman Allman



ROY HERMAN ALLMAN

1924 - 1944

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Roy Herman Allman was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, August 18, 1924, a son of John and Rose Swonk Allman, both natives of Michigan, descendants of Holland and German ancestry. Mr. and Mrs. John Allman also became the parents of Louise, Ruth, Miriam, Jean, Russell and Hugh. The last named was in the armed services at the same time Roy was.

Roy attended St. Augustine grade and high school and was graduated June 9, 1943, and on that day received notice from the United States Government to report for service.

He left for Detroit for induction and was sent from there to the United States Naval Training Station at Great Lakes. Later he was sent to Memphis, Tennessee, for training and then went to Florida for flight training with a squadron and received his wings while there. Almeda, Californis, was his next assignment and there he finished his training and was assigned to a Carrier.

Roy was a Third Class Aviation Ordnance Man on a Torpedo ship and was doing night flying when his

74

plane crashed and Roy received injuries which caused his death on Monday, October 2, 1944.

Personal Characteristics

Roy Herman Allman was five feet eleven and one-half inches tall, had broad shoulders, a good physique and his eyes were hazel and his hair was a dark brown.

In school he was above the average as a student and had the ability to earn higher marks than he received. He was content to be as one of the class rather than try to be an all-A student.

His popularity in school was attested by his being elected president of his class during the senior year. He did not take an active part in dramatics, but he did help to advertise the plays. All kinds of odd jobs in school were assigned to Roy and he enjoyed helping wherever he could.

He enjoyed athletic sports of all kinds and was an enthusiastic golf player. He also played foot ball and other games. He was an expert swimmer.

When he saw that he was destined for military service he chose the United States Navy in preference to any other branch of the Armed Services.

Roy was a beloved member of St. Augustine Roman Catholic Church and took great interest in its

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various offices. This resulted in his appointment as an altar boy, which gave him much satisfaction.

Roy was a much loved member of a large circle of friends and the center of an affectionate family. As it is said that "No sailor ever dies - he just goes out to sea" those who knew him best and loved him most think of him as faring on in some better clime.

The body was returned to Kalamazoo Monday, October 9, 1944, and the funeral was held in the St. Augustine Roman Catholic Church at nine o'clock the following Wednesday morning. Burial was in Mt. Olivet cemetery.

In the Service Flag of our nation a bright star of untarnished gold stands out and upon it is the name of Roy Herman Allman.

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Harold Richard Allworth

H A R O L D R I C H A R D A L L W O R T H

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Private Harold Richard Allworth was reported missing in action November 18, 1944, when serving with a company attempting to hold a position in the vicinity of Lendersdorf, Germany. One year and one day later the war department officially announced a presumptive finding of death as of that date. He had been in combat but two weeks prior to that time.

Harold enlisted in the latter part of April, 1944, and left for Camp Robinson, Arkansas, May 3, 1944, and was assigned to an infantry division. He came home on furlough September 17, 1944, after which he went to Fort Meade, Maryland, and left there for overseas the following October. He was put into a replacement troop at once and soon made the supreme sacrifice.

Birth and Education

Harold was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, April 29, 1917, son of Frank E. Allworth and Bertina Watson Allworth, who resided in Kalamazoo, Michigan, but at the time of Harold's birth the mother was

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<u>Birth and Education</u>

Harold was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, April 29, 1917, son of Frank E. Allworth and Bertina Watson Allworth, who resided in Kalamazoo, Michigan, but at the time of Harold's birth the mother was

visiting in Milwaukee.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Allworth also became the parents of seven other children: Durwood, Robert, Elinor, Lettie Jean, Donna, Mary Lou and Betty Jane. The last named is deceased. Harold was next to the oldest.

Harold attended the Oakwood and Roosevelt Schools and worked to keep himself in school. His first employment for any length of time was with the Atlas Press. While there he met Mildred Waltz, who was born in Harrisburg, Illinois, July 18, 1917, daughter of Fred and Rowena Bettis Waltz. The latter died May 26, 1945.

Mildred had ten brothers and sisters: Bronzel; Charles, deceased; Hubert; Leslie; Genevieve; William; Nora, deceased; Virgil, deceased; Beulah, deceased; and Ida B., deceased.

The Waltz family moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan, remained a short time and returned to Illinois. About 1934, they again made their home in Kalamazoo, but the mother's heart was ever in her old home in Illinois and much of her time was spent there.

Harold Allworth and Mildred Waltz were married in South Bend, Indiana, November 20, 1937. They started housekeeping in Oakwood, a suburb of Kalamazoo, Michigan, and their three children were

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84

born in Kalamazoo: Harold Richard was born January 31, 1939;Marlene Kay was born [illegible]; and Ronald Lee was born [illegible]. At this time in 1946, Mrs. Allworth and the children reside at 3331 Redmond street in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Personal Characteristics

Harold liked all kinds of sports, hunting, fishing, football and baseball, as a spectator. He played the Hawaiian guitar very acceptably and spent many happy hours playing with Eugene Giberson, a pal of his.

Harold was of medium height and slender build and had blonde hair and blue eyes. He was energetic and industrious, provided well for his family and was true to his home. His many friends declared him to be honorable and honest in all his dealings.

He abhorred debt and tried hard to keep out of it. He was fond of children and would show his interest and affection for any child he might meet. He was brave and stronger than his appearance might indicate.

He attended Church in Oakwood and was a product of a Christian home. While in the armed service he attended chapel and enjoyed visits with the Chaplain.

born in Kalamazoo: Harold Richard was born January 31, 1939; Marilane Kay was born December 6, 1941; and Ronald Lee was born November 14, 1944. At this time in 1946, Mrs. Allworth and the children reside at 3331 Redmond street in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Personal Characteristics

Harold liked all kinds of sports, hunting, fishing, football and baseball, as a spectator. He played the Hawaiian guitar very acceptably and spent many happy hours playing with Eugene Gibersen, a pal of his.

Harold was of medium height and slender build and had blonde hair and blue eyes. He was energetic and industrious, provided well for his family and was true to his home. His many friends declared him to be honorable and honest in all his dealings.

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486

Harold Richard Allworth was a warm hearted husband and father and lived his life, as all true, good men do, in the service of his fellow men. He sleeps on foreign soil but his spirit lives and his memory is cherished in the hearts of his family and friends.

"Now the soldier's task is o'er,
Now the battle day is past.
Now upon the farther shore
Lands the voyager at last.
Father, in Thy gracious keeping,
Leave we now, Thy soldier sleeping."

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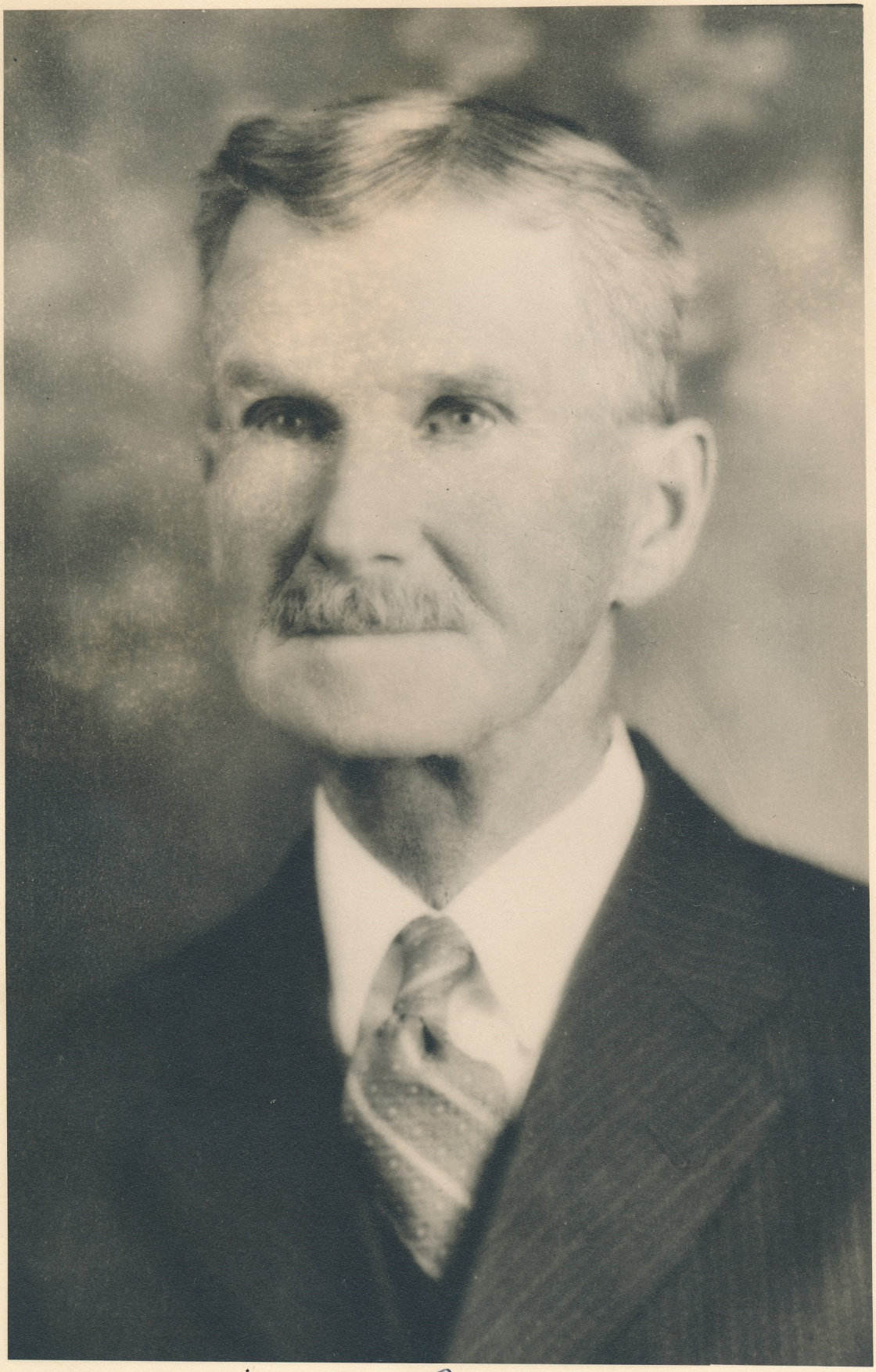
88

James Anderson

89



James Anderson

Ruth M Anderson

92

Ruth Morgan Anderson

J A M E S A N D E R S O N

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R U T H M O R G A N A N D E R S O N

1 8 7 1 - 1 9 4 0

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One hundred years ago, in June 1939, a young man, venturesome as were most of those who penetrated Michigan's prairies and forests, reached this section after traveling New York by canal, lake vessel, and from Detroit by stage and horseback. Duncan Anderson had heard Horace Greeley's advice, and lured by the spirit of adventure had followed it.

He had heard of the rich timber and prairie land of Michigan, and purely in the spirit of speculation, he bought a quarter section for four dollars an acre from land speculators. He found Mary Beckley, who had a pioneering urge equal to his own and rhey were married and proceeded to force the wilderness to give them a home and a livelihood.

The Anderson place is located a mile north of U. S. 12, known as Territorial road when the first Anderson picked it out, and two miles north and west of Oshtemo. The first home was built a mile south

JAMES ANDERSON

1831 -

RUTH MORGAN ANDERSON

1871 - 1940

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One hundred years ago, in June 1833, a young man, venturesome as were most of those who penetrated Michigan's prairies and forests, reached this section after traveling New York by canal, lake vessel, and from Detroit by stage and horseback. Duncan Anderson had heard Horace Greeley's advice, and lured by the spirit of adventure had followed it.

He had heard of the rich timber and prairie land of Michigan, and purely in the spirit of speculation, he bought a quarter section for four dollars an acre from land speculators. He found Mary Buckley, who had a pioneering urge equal to his own and they were married and proceeded to force the wilderness to give them a home and a livelihood.

The Anderson place is located a mile north of U. S. 12, known as Territorial road when the first Anderson picked it out, and two miles north and west of Ontwa. The first home was built a mile south

of the present fine home, on the section line. The present dwelling is made up of a part built eighty years ago, and an addition erected about 1932. The entire quarter section is still in the Anderson name, save for ten acres sold to the railroad when the Michigan Central was built.

The elder Duncan Anderson, his son says, found virgin timber so huge and ancient that the ground was almost entirely clear of underbrush. "They could drive a team almost anywhere", James Anderson said his father told him, "because, as is peculiar in virgin timber stands, low growing brush never got a start."

"Those were hard days, my father often recalled", he said. "Money was tight at the time of the Civil War, and they had to resort to many hard devices to earn a livelihood. They often hauled wheat clear to St. Joseph to find a market, taking a week to the trip over trails that were difficult even in the best of weather."

James Anderson, who is of Scotch descent, was born on this farm April 18, 1861. He attended the rural school in the neighborhood and spent two winters in Parsons Business College in Kalamazoo. When a young man he sold wind mills and made trips

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into Ohio and Indiana for that purpose. When he was about twenty he went to Mississippi to sell wind mills. He says, "The roads were bad and the mud was deep." He spent about two months there and then came back to the farm and has spent most of his time since farming until his son took over the farm.

General farming was the early practice on the Anderson farm, with dairy cattle the main stay during the last forty years. At the time of this writing, 1940, there are about twenty cows and twenty young cattle, for which the farm provides practically all the feed.

"So the farm has been in the family for one hundred years," says James Anderson. "Now we are hoping we can build up a real tradition and keep it in the family for another hundred years."

James Anderson had one sister, Fannie, who married Arthur Strong, was the mother of five children and is deceased. He has two brothers, Edward, who married (1) Mary Dean, (2) Mary Bell, has one child, Lillian Anderson, librarian in the Kalamazoo Public Library, and resides in Oshtemo township; Willis, who married Ella Strong and has three children and resides in Oshtemo township. September 30, 1890, James Anderson was married to Ruth Morgan, who

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was born February 9, 1871, of Welsh descent and when a young woman she came from New York to Michigan and lived with relatives while teaching the Hurd school just a mile from the Anderson place. The young couple became acquainted and found a unity of interest which led them to the altar and a beautiful companionship for nearly fifty years, until she passed away after several months of illness January 27, 1940, and was laid to rest in Mountain Home cemetery, the Reverend William A. Keith, pastor of the Congregational Church in Kalamazoo officiating.

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson were the parents of:

Earl D., born November 11, 1891, married Ruth Balch, who was born September 11, 1891, daughter of Royal Curtis and Nellie Wild Balch, is the father of Gwendolyn B., who was born March 26, 1914, married Clare Keiser and is the mother of
Joan, born ,
Jack, born , and
June, born ;

Alice E., born October 26, 1919, in Ann Arbor training to be a nurse and her twin brother Richard, a student in Western State Teachers College;

Robert, born March 1, 1926, a student in W. S. T. C. Training School;

Hubert J., born March 21, 1896, married Lylah Davis, is the father of Jane Marie, born August 2, 1923 and James Davis, born July 21, 1928, resides in Three Rivers, Michigan;

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Mr. and Mrs. Anderson were the parents of:

Earl D., born November 11, 1891, married Ruth Balch, who was born September 11, 1891, daughter of Royal Curtis and Nellie Wild Balch, is the father of Gwendolyn B., who was born March 25, 1914, married Claire Kelser and is the mother of Joan, born February 9, 1933, Jack, born June 17, 1934, and June, born June 21, 1935;

Alice E., born October 26, 1919, in Ann Arbor training to be a nurse and her twin brother Richard, a student in Western State Teachers College;

Robert, born March 1, 1926, a student in W. S. T. C. Training School;

Hubert J., born March 21, 1896, married Lylah Davis, is the father of Jane Marie, born August 2, 1923 and James Davis, born July 21, 1928, resides in Three Rivers, Michigan;

Allen E., born December 25, 1898, married Mabel Miller, resides in Oak Park, Illinois;

Margaret R., born June 19, 1905, and is dietician in Norwegian Hospital, Brooklyn, New York.

The wish of Mr. and Mrs. Anderson to see the old home place stay in the family for another century is well on the way to being realized. The son, Earl D., is working the farm and is planning to teach his sons the business. Careful conservation practices started by James Anderson twenty-five years ago, before many Michigan farmers thought it was necessary to do more than plant and harvest, have kept the place in first class condition.

About nineteen years ago James Anderson thought he had had enough of the farm and got a job in a paper mill. "I lasted there just about ten months," he laughed, "and I was mighty glad to get back to the farm."

In 1926 Mr. and Mrs. Anderson made a trip to New York to visit Mrs. Anderson's old home, and to see the section in which Duncan Anderson spent his youth. Three years ago he went to California, and then toured sixteen states by train.

"The west is sightly", Mr. Anderson said. "California is good for old men, but not for young,

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"The west is alright", Mr. Anderson said. "California is good for old men, but not for young,

and I still think Michigan is the best state in the Union."

Mr. Anderson's venture into politics came when he was twenty-two, and he was elected to the office of clerk of Oshtemo township. He served as township treasurer one term, was census taker three times and served as member of the school board of his district. He attended the Methodist Church in Oshtemo to which Mrs. Anderson belonged. At one time he joined the Grange.

Mr. Anderson is a highly respected citizen and has many friends. He is genial, well read and enjoys the satisfaction of having maintained the old family home to pass on to his heirs with many improvements.

and I still think Michigan is the best state in the Union."

Mr. Anderson's venture into politics came when he was twenty-two, and he was elected to the office of clerk of Oakland township. He served as township treasurer one term, was census taker three times and served as member of the school board of his district. He attended the Methodist Church in Oakland to which Mrs. Anderson belonged. At one time he joined the Grange.

Mr. Anderson is a highly respected citizen and has many friends. He is genial, well read and enjoys the satisfaction of having maintained the old family home to pass on to his heirs with many improvements.

105

Niles Anderson

Niles Anderson

108

Emma Jane Anderson

M R . & M R S .

N I L E S A N D E R S O N

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Emma Jane Knerr was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, March 16, 1860. Her father, Stephen Knerr, of Pennsylvania Dutch stock, was a partner in the first factory ever located in the city of Kalamazoo. It was first established on North Westnedge avenue and later moved to Cooley street. The Knerr children were eight in number, seven growing to manhood and womanhood: Elizabeth, who married L. J. Everett and is deceased; Charles, deceased; George, deceased; Emma Jane, the subject of this writing; Jennie, who married George W. Russell; Julia, who married M. E. Wilson and is deceased; Nellie, who married Reverend J. S. Corkey, a Presbyterian minister, and resides in Kalamazoo.

Emma Knerr attended the Vine Street School. When she was twelve years of age her father died and all the children then took a good deal of the responsibility for the upkeep of the home.

January 3, 1883, Emma Knerr was married to

MR. & MRS.

NILES ANDERSON

1855-

1860-1942

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January 3, 1883, Emma Knerr was married to

Niles Anderson, who was born on a farm near Breedsville, VanBuren county, Michigan, November 15, 1855. He was the son of D. Holton and Clara Niles Anderson, who came to Michigan from the state of New York. Niles had an older sister, Dora, and a brother, Holton Adelbert, who was younger than himself.

The parents of Niles Anderson were early settlers in southwestern Michigan and acquired a farm home near Breedsville. Later this was sold and a saw mill was built at Bear Lake in the same county. In 1872 they moved from Bear Lake to Three Rivers, Michigan, where they resided for about four years and then went to Belle Plaine, Kansas, and after twenty-five years there, came to Kalamazoo. D. Holton Anderson passed away in Kalamazoo in 1913. He used to remark that he had lived one-third of his life in New York, one-third in Michigan and one-third in Kansas.

Mr. and Mrs. Niles Anderson became the parents of: Bessie, who died at four years of age; Berenice, who married Harry Fuller and resides at 438 Woodward avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan; Clyde G., who married Florence Burbank and resides in Portland, Oregon. Their home was on South Rose street, where the children grew to maturity.

Miles Anderson, who was born on a farm near Breedsville, VanBuren county, Michigan, November 15, 1855. He was the son of D. Holton and Clara Miles Anderson, who came to Michigan from the state of New York. Miles had an older sister, Dora, and a brother, Holton Adelbert, who was younger than himself.

The parents of Miles Anderson were early settlers in southwestern Michigan and acquired a farm home near Breedsville. Later this was sold and a saw mill was built at Bear Lake in the same county. In 1872 they moved from Bear Lake to Three Rivers, Michigan, where they resided for about four years and then went to Belle Plaine, Kansas, and after twenty-five years there, came to Kalamazoo. D. Holton Anderson passed away in Kalamazoo in 1913. He used to remark that he had lived one-third of his life in New York, one-third in Michigan and one-third in Kansas.

Mr. and Mrs. Miles Anderson became the parents of: Bessie, who died at four years of age; Berenice, who married Harry Fuller and resides at 438 Woodward avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan; Clyde G., who married Florence Burbank and resides in Portland, Oregon. Their home was on South Rose street, where the children grew to maturity.

Before his marriage Mr. Anderson worked for nine years, 1874 - 1883, for the George W. Taylor Company of Kalamazoo, Michigan, but following that event the young couple went to Belle Plaine, Kansas, to begin their long years of housekeeping and Mr. Anderson engaged in the clothing business.

In August 1886, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson returned to Kalamazoo and he again was employed by the Taylor company until 1920, when he purchased a half interest in The Star Bargain House, a mercantile establishment in which his brother-in-law, George W. Russell, was interested. Mr. Anderson stayed in that partnership for four years, selling out in 1924 to Mr. Stranahan. Upon the death of the latter, Mrs. Stranahan sold her interest in the business to Mr. Lynch. Mr. Niles Anderson retired from business and continued to reside at 438 Woodward avenue, where he still lives at the time of this writing in 1943, making forty-one years that place has been his residence.

It was in this beautiful and spacious home that the companionship of nearly sixty years was broken on December 4, 1942, when Mrs. Anderson was summoned to her long home.

She was of medium height with dark hair turning white, and brown eyes. Having been reared in a

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114

devoted Christian home, she early learned to know and love her Lord. She was a life long member of the Presbyterian Church in Kalamazoo. Mrs. Anderson was never of an aggressive nature, but was a most conscientious worker in the societies of the church. She was fond of music and at one time sang in the Methodist choir. She also loved flowers and gardening and the visits with her large circle of friends. She was devoted to her home, yet always interested in everything in which her aid was solicited.

Funeral services were conducted by the Reverend T. Ashley Walker, her friend and pastor, assistant minister in the First Presbyterian Church. Burial was in Mountain Home cemetery.

"Now there shall be a new song and a new
voice in the wind to whisper to us -
From the harbor bar of Heaven -
She is our advocate."

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JENNIE PARKER ANDREWS

118

Jennie Parker Andrews

J E N N I E P A R K E R A N D R E W S

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Jennie Parker was born at Richland, Michigan, October 22, 1852, daughter of Celestia Barnes and Amasa Sheldon Parker. Mr. Parker was born in Washington, Connecticut, in 1805. He came to Michigan in 1830, and taught school for a time in Van Buren county and came to Richland, Michigan, in August, 1831. Early in 1832, he bought a farm in the southern part of Barry county. In June 1834, he was married to Miss Celestia C. Barnes by the Reverend Levi White. Her father had built a mill at what is now Yorkville, but was then known as Gull Mills. Miss Barnes taught one of the first day schools in this town.

In 1830, Mr. Parker moved to a farm he had purchased in Richland, where the daughter Jennie was born. In 1865, he bought a farm one-half mile west of the Presbyterian Church and resided there until his death, September 14, 1878.

Mr. and Mrs. Parker united with the Presbyterian Church in 1834, and for thirty years he held the office of ruling elder in that church.

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Mr. and Mrs. Parker united with the Presbyterian Church in 1834, and for thirty years he held the office of ruling elder in that church.

The daughter Jennie united with the Richland Presbyterian Church while very young and so small that the officials wondered whether she should be permitted to join. She first attended school one and one-half miles north of Richland and then at the Richland Seminary. Later she went to school in Kalamazoo and became a teacher in the old Kalamazoo high school. She assisted in making the first flag for the village of Richland and it was hung, at half-mast, for the first time when President Lincoln was assassinated. She sat under the sewing machine which was run by hand.

January 19, 1881, Jennie Parker was married to James Andrews, who died some time later in the Canal zone. They began housekeeping in Kansas City, Missouri.

About 1887, Mrs. Andrews secured a position with the war and navy department in Washington, District of Columbia, and remained there until her retirement in 1927, when she returned to Kalamazoo, but spent her winters in Washington, D. C. At the time of her death her Kalamazoo residence was at 703 South Park street. She was a member of the Congregational Church and belonged to the Daughters of the American Revolution. She died Nov. 13, 1939.

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Harley M. Andrus

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H A R L E Y M A N D R U S

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Harley M. Andrus was born in Hastings, Michigan, March 30, 1879, son of Charles Seymour and Cynthia Kelly Andrus of English ancestry. They were farmers and Harley grew up in the country and attended the rural school near his home, after which he went to the Hastings high school, from which he was graduated.

In 1897 Mr. Andrus was employed as reporter on the Hastings Banner. Later he came under the influence of a food inspector, Dr. Clark, who so impressed the young man that his future career was largely determined.

He served as a soldier in the Spanish American War and became Corporal in Company K of the 35th Regiment of Michigan Volunteer Infantry and when he came down with malarial fever was honorably discharged and was pensioned, and belonged to the Spanish American War Veterans.

After the Spanish American War Mr. Andrus was employed at the State Hospital Farms in Pontiac and Kalamazoo and later was employed in a drug store in Kalamazoo. When Dr. Clark resigned as Meat, Milk

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After the Spanish American War Mr. Andrus was employed at the State Hospital Farms in Pontiac and Kalamazoo and later was employed in a drug store in Kalamazoo. When Dr. Clark resigned as Meat, Milk

and Food Inspector for Kalamazoo in 1916, Mr. Andrus took the Civil Service examination and passed with a score of 92, which was the highest, and so he became that officer. His record of achievements in this office was such that he was made Food Inspector for the District in which Kalamazoo is located, at the same time retaining his office as Meat, Milk and Food Inspector for the city of Kalamazoo, thus greatly enlarging his authority.

April 30, 1936, he was married to Gwendolyn T. Dolittle in Indiana, after which they made their home in Kalamazoo.

Mr. Andrus enjoyed playing golf and baking was a hobby with him. He was a quiet industrious man and discharged his responsibilities with diligence. He was affable and made friends everywhere he went.

Death came to him August 7, 1941, and he was given burial in the Spanish American War Veteran's lot in Riverside cemetery, Kalamazoo, with full military honors.

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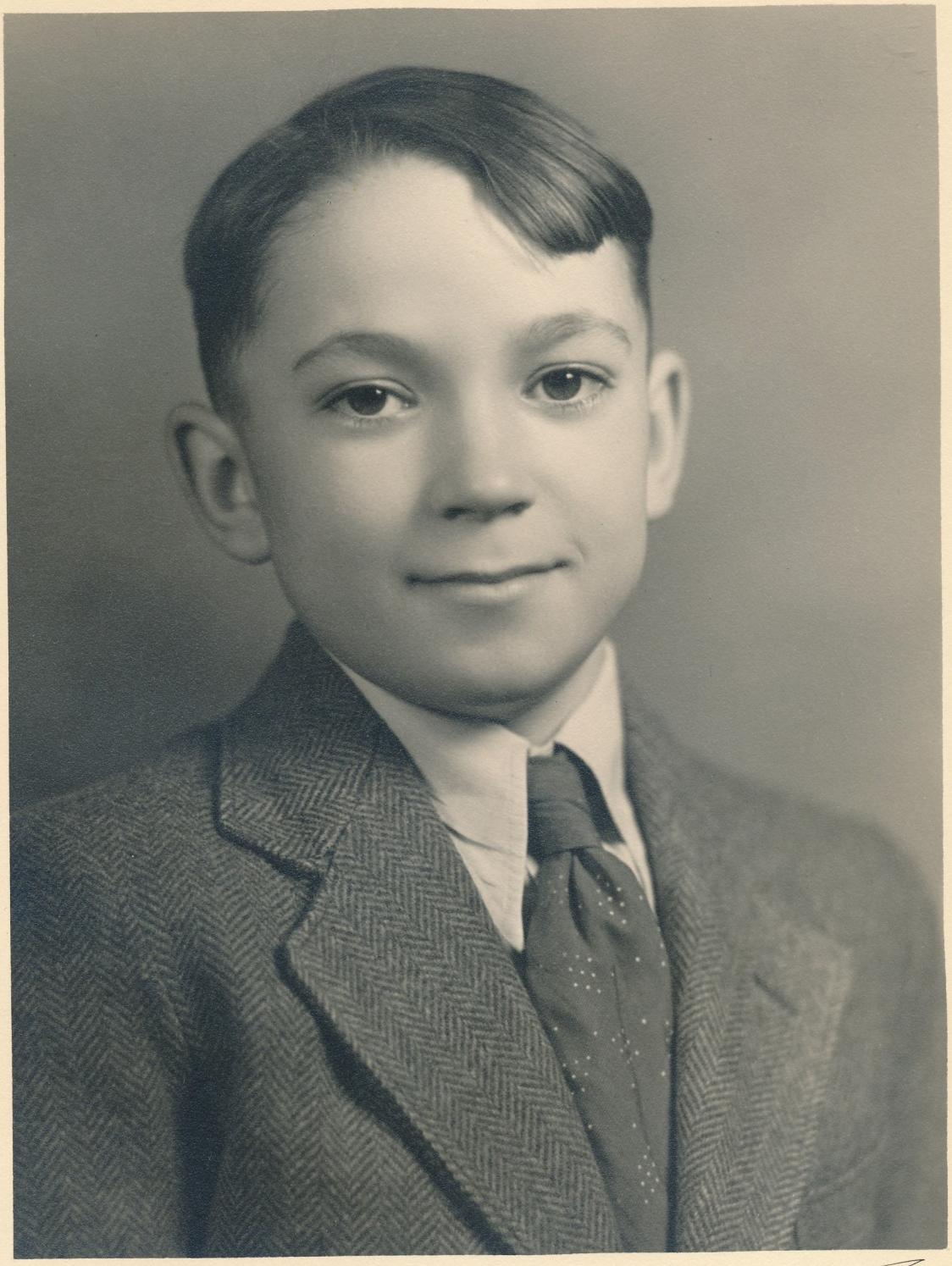

H. E. Robinson

129

130

Mark Roy Anson

M A R K R O Y A N S O N

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MARK ROY ANSON, son of Mark A. and Mabel Zwetsch Anson, was born October 22nd, 1920, at Kalamazoo, Michigan, the family residence being at 508 Terrace Place. The family came from New York. The mother, daughter of Charles Zwetsch, was born in Alexander. There were but two children in the Anson family, Annette and Mark.

Mark attended Hillcrest School and later transferred to Vine Street School in 1933. Some time previous to this the Anson family purchased a grocery store and home at 1842 Oakland drive and had moved to that address. Subsequently Mr. Anson died.

Of Mark's school work at Vine Street School, his Home Room teacher, Miss Sarah Hare, said:

> "Mark was an alert student and a general favorite with the boys and girls of his group. He was chosen by his classmates to fill various posts of importance in his Home Room."

Mark enjoyed games of all kinds, but was particularly fond of chess. He was typical boy, loving to be out of doors with his dog, romping and playing.

In September, 1935, Mark entered the ninth grade at school, and was making a good record as a student.

On December 22, 1935, this young life was ended

suddenly, the result of a bad accident. Funeral services were held at the Truesdale Funeral Home, the minister in charge being The Reverend Robert J. Locke, pastor of the Congregational Church. Surviving at this writing, (1936), are the mother and sister.

"Dear Lord, how shall we know that they
Still walk unseen with us and Thee,
Nor sleep, nor wander far away?"
He smiled: "Abide in Me!"

A. T. Robinson

M. Forest Ashbrook

136

M. Forest Ashbrook

M FOREST ASHBROOK

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M. Forest Ashbrook was born May 20, 1896 at Granville, Ohio, the son of Milan P. and Lucy Shepherdson Ashbrook. He received his early education in the Granville schools and was graduated from Doane Academy in Granville in 1917 where he was honored by being valedictorian of his class and a member of the Cum Laude Society. He served in general service in the Infantry during the World War in 1918. Mr. Ashbrook was ordained by the First Baptist Church of Granville, Ohio, in May 1923. He then entered Denison University where he earned a Phi Beta Kappa recognition and received a medal for excellence in debate and oratory and the degree of Ph. B. During his Divinity School Course he served one year as Assistant in Asbury Methodist Church, Rochester, New York and two years as pastor of Community Church, Canaseraga, New York.

On December 21, 1923, he was united in marriage to Elizabeth Barbour, Evanston, Illinois. To this union two children were born, James Barbour, November 1, 1925 and Byron Eugene, March 10, 1929.

Mr. Ashbrook served as a Member of Board of Managers of the Michigan Baptist Convention from 1925 to 1927. In June 1924 he answered a call to serve as pastor of the First Baptist Church in Adrian, Michigan, where he was made a member of the Rotary Club and a delegate to the Rotary International Convention, in Ostend, Belgium, where he spent the summer travelling in Europe.

In November 1927, Mr. Ashbrook was made pastor of the First Baptist Church of Kalamazoo where he served until January, 1935. While a resident of Kalamazoo he served as First vice-president and member of the Executive Board of the Michigan Baptist Convention 1927-30; President of Kalamazoo Ministerial Alliance 1929-31; Member of Executive Board Week-day Religious Education 1928-30; President of Hillcrest P. T. A. 1931-1933; Treasurer and member of the Executive Board of the City Council P. T. A. 1933-34. From 1933-1935 Mr. Ashbrook was a member of the Advisory Board of Barter and Trade and a member of the Executive Board of Kalamazoo Better Citizenship Council 1933-1935. He was also an active member of the Kiwanis Club and Torch Club of this city.

He served as a Trustee of Kalamazoo College since 1930. In 1934 he was elected a member of the Board of Education of Kalamazoo which position he

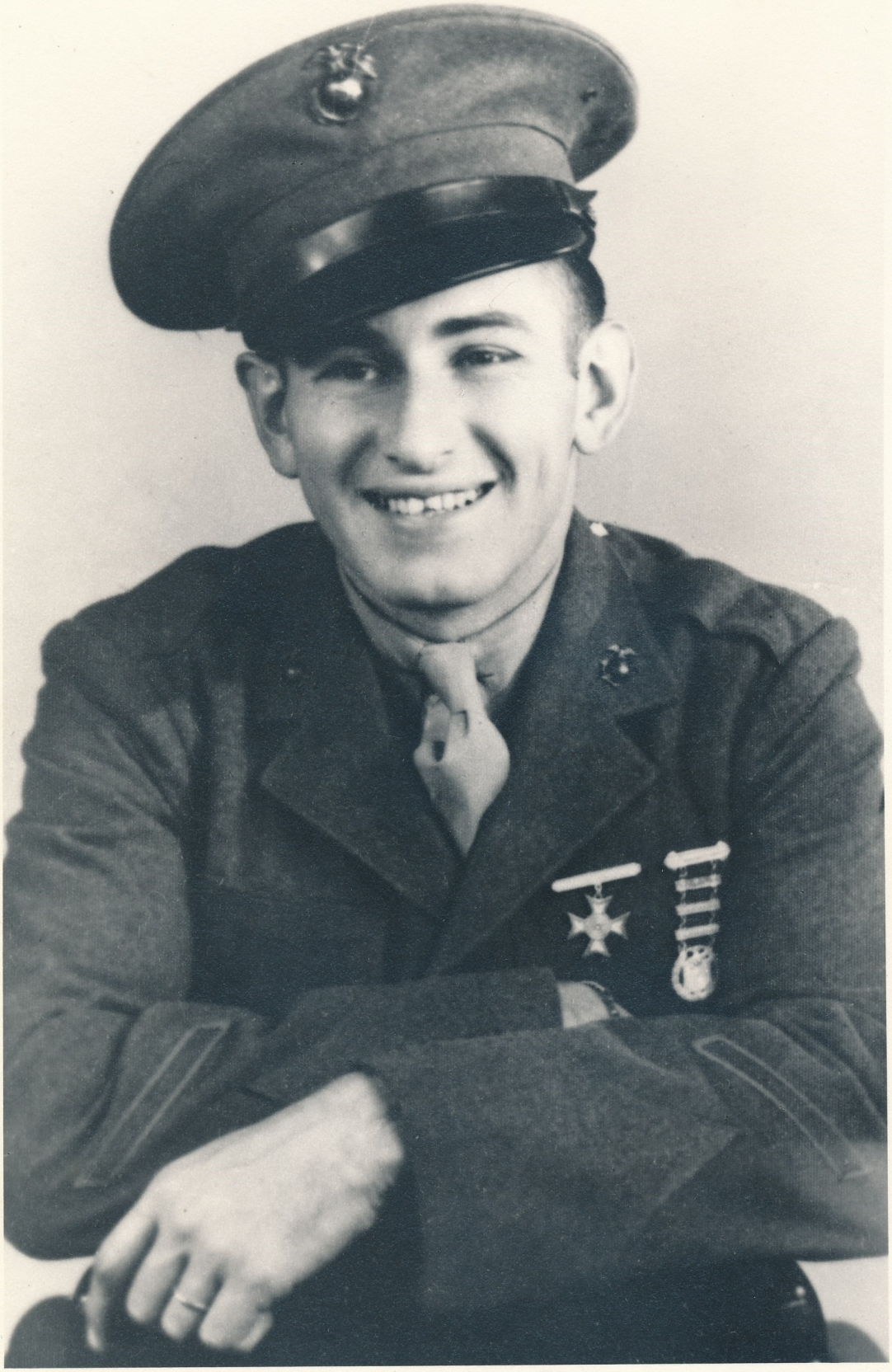
resigned when leaving Kalamazoo in January 1935 on being appointed Assistant to the Executive Secretary of the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board of the Northern Baptist Convention with residence in New York. Since going to New York Mr. Ashbrook has been made a member of the "Q" Club and a member of the Council on Christian Education of Northern Baptist Convention.

(The inclusion of the photograph and the life story of Mr. Ashbrook in this collection was made possible by the contribution of Mr. and Mrs. Royal T. Hall).

(The foregoing was written in 1936)

143

William Arthur Atkins



W I L L I A M A R T H U R A T K I N S

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William Arthur Atkins was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, September 30, 1918, the son of Arthur S. and Lucile Suave Atkins. The father was of English ancestry and the mother of French and Irish descent.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Atkins were also the parents of:

Richard S., who is now, 1945, in the Army Air Force; and

Patricia, who married Corporal Roscoe Mumy, who is stationed at Keesler Field, Biloxi, Mississippi.

William Arthur Atkins obtained his education in the public schools of Kalamazoo, Michigan. He entered St. Augustine High School and in his sophomore year transferred to Central High School and while attending school enlisted in the National Guard of the United States in the Michigan National Guard August 5, 1936. He served with Company C, 126th Infantry for six years.

William, who was familiarly known as "Bill", left Detroit, Michigan, for San Diego, California, April 27, 1944, and was inducted into the Marines,

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William was home on "Boot furlough" in August, 1944, and upon his return to California, was stationed at Oceanside for further training in gunnery and earned high expert rating and received a medal.

From Oceanside he was sent to Los Angeles, California, point of embarkation. From there he phoned his wife to say goodbye. This proved to be the last time she heard his voice.

William received advanced training on Russell Islands close to Guadalcanal. From there he was moved into combat on Okinawa, where he was killed in action May 14, 1945.

Marriage

In 1938, up from Virginia came Miss Frances Scott to rejoin her father and mother who had moved previously to Kalamazoo, Michigan. Frances was born in Virginia, daughter of Yuille B. Scott, a Scotch-Irishman, and his wife, Marguerite McClung Scott. Frances had one sister, Jacqueline.

Frances Scott entered Central High School as a sophomore and renewed an acquaintance she had made during the summer, with one Richard Atkins, brother of "Bill".

The following spring Frances met "Bill" Atkins and a friendship began which ripened into love and

147

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148

The young couple were married June 12, 1939. At that time "Bill" was employed as a machinist at the Atlas Press and later at Willow Run.

On [redacted], Mr. and Mrs. Atkins became the parents of William Tommie, who now, in 1945, is the man of the family and takes pride in helping his mother. Tommie is the image of his father and walks and talks like him. He is proud indeed to hear that he is like his brave young daddy.

Personal Characteristics

William Arthur Atkins was five feet eleven inches tall, weighed about one hundred seventy-five pounds with a fair skin, hazel eyes and dark brown hair. He was a handsome young man and his training as a soldier gave him an erect carriage and grace in movement. His poise and confidence in himself and his ability to converse intelligently on many subjects gave him a pleasing and attractive personality. He enjoyed good natured ribbing and his give and take attitude won him a host of friends.

Bill enjoyed the out-of-doors and revelled in active, strenuous physical exercise in various games and sports. He played a good game of golf, was an expert swimmer and liked to hunt and fish. With his interest in music he was a natural born

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150

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The following is a copy of a letter he wrote:

Pvt. Wm. Atkins 964480 Somewhere in
Hq. Co. 1st Bn. 7th Marines the So. Pacific
c/o Fleet P. O.
San Francisco, Calif. 2-10-45

Dear Mom and Dad:

Received a V-mail letter from you today dated Jan. 26. You said Dick wanted my address, he must not be getting my letters.

I was sorry to hear Yuille Scott is so bad off again. That poor fellow sure has gone through hell, but it is just one thing that no human has power over or can do much for him.

You know, Mom, it has been a long time since I was a little kid and could come to you with my troubles, cry my heart out; then you would take me in your arms, give me a kiss and seem so understanding that it would make me feel 100% better.

Or how I used to cut my finger or bruise my knee, you would kissit and it would be better.

And, Dad, do you remember the time we used to live on Water St., and you tried to teach me how to tell time; and you used to set me down to the little table you gave Tom and tried to teach me the A B C s and I was so thick headed I just could not seem to catch on; and to go further back, when I was just a tot, remember when we lived on North street and how Dick and I used to run to the corner when Grand-dad was coming home from work, and he would always have something for us, and then when I was quite a bit older and I thought I was a big shot, that is when I was going to So. Westnedge school and was working at the golf course and when I started smoking; and the night I went out with Olen Shoudy and got so drunk, I was just a kid, but I thought I was quite a man. Dad was sure mad at me that night. I will have to admit I was

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152

running around with a wild crowd. They were all older than I and I tried to keep up with them. But they grew up to be a good bunch of men - some of them have given their lives for this country. You know, Mom and Dad, at nights when I lay in my sack I think of these things and wish I were back at those ages, and be able to tell you my troubles.

Then came a time in my life I fell in love and wanted to get married. Say! How you and Dad tried to stop it, but I got married anyway. That was one time in my life I did not listen to you and you will have to admit I was right. I married a good girl. She has made me a good wife and a swell mother.

Then the war came along and Dick enlisted in the Air Forces. That sure hurt me because, in a way, I wanted to go and yet I did not want to leave my wife and son, but if I knew a war was coming on I would never have left my old outfit, so I did the next best thing and stayed home to turn out materials our fighting men needed; then I got connected up with the C I O. They were a swell bunch of fellows, that is some of them, but now I know how fellows feel about strikes and things like that, that is fellows overseas, and I am sorry for some of the things I did while in the C I O, and if they were over here they would see things different, but I guess you live and learn.

This letter might sound a little foolish to you, but over here a fellow has a lot of time to think and I think of the things I did and how I would do them if I could live my life over. I only wish I could, because it would be lived a lot different, that is some of it; and there are parts of it I could never improve, like getting married when you didn't want me to. That was one time I went against your will and did right in my estimation.

Well, folks, I could go on and on like this, but things like that prey on my mind and if I am lucky enough to live through these troubled times, I will try to make things right to you and dad for some of the troubles I have caused you.

Take good care of yourselves and when Dick and I get home you wont have to worry about keeping help in the store because both of us will be willing to work for you. Love - your son
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153

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154

The following is a letter from the commanding officer:

July 25, 1945

My dear Mrs. Atkins,

I wish to express my deepest sympathy for the death of your husband. I realize what the loss of Bill means to you and we all share your sorrow.

I have known Bill since he joined the battalion. Neat, courteous, a good worker, he was liked and respected by all who knew him.

Bill was a forward observer for our 81 mm Mortar platoon, directing their fire from his position with one of our assault companies. His work was outstanding and assisted in the success of several very difficult missions. Always cool under fire, his actions were an inspiration to those about him.

His company was moving forward when they became engaged in close combat with the enemy. Bill was struck and killed instantly by enemy rifle fire while taking part in the fight.

I trust you may find some measure of consolation from this letter and if I may be of any future assistance please write me.

Sincerely yours,

Russell R. Frazell, 1st Lt.

The following is a copy of a letter from the Colonel of the Marine Corps:

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Washington

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155

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156

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You are also entitled to the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal for your husband's service in the Asiatic-Pacific Area. The medal will not be ready for issuance until six months after the war, and it is requested that you make application to this office for the award at that time.

Sincerely yours,

A. E. O'NEIL
Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps.

The following is a copy of the Purple Heart Certificate:

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:
THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
PURSUANT TO AUTHORITY VESTED IN HIM BY CONGRESS
HAS AWARDED THE
PURPLE HEART
ESTABLISHED BY GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON
AT NEWBURGH, NEW YORK, AUGUST 7, 1782
TO
Private William A. Atkins, U. S. Marine Corps Reserve
FOR MILITARY MERIT AND FOR WOUNDS RECEIVED IN ACTION
resulting in his death May 14, 1945
GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON
THIS 27th DAY OF JULY 1945

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The Purple Heart Certificate was signed by A. A. Vandegrift, General, U. S. M. C., the Commandant, the U. S. Marine Corps, and Artemus L. Gates, Acting Secretary of the Navy.

William Arthur Atkins was a communicant of St. Augustine Roman Catholic Church in Kalamazoo, Michigan. and while in the army he regularly attended Mass and found comfort and solace in the familiar ritual which he had known from the days of his childhood.

William played life as he found it to its fullest extent and when death overtook him he was in the glow of youth at the age of twenty-six. To the roster of the brave boys from Kalamazoo his name is added and his gold star will shine through the years as he lives in the hearts of his friends and loved ones.

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160

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